BENGALURU, SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2026 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 32 | Min 22 | Humidity 65% Scattered thunderstorms Sensex 74,775 | Nifty 23,547 | Gold 1,56,010 | Silver 2,66,229 | Dollar 94.76 | Euro 110.83 | GBP 127.59

CLEAR THE AIR

As city's air pollution level rises, authorities struggle to use up clean air funds in order for it to receive more

PAGE 2

DOWNPOUR DREAD

1 death, water-logged streets and other scenes from rainy day and what happens when a tree falls

PAGE 5

Repeated glitches in Food Dept's software has led to nearly 40% of beneficiaries not receiving ration for this month, even as they queue up day after day outside shops from wee hours till closing time

UNFAIR SCENES AT FAIR PRICE SHOPS

With no facilities to even sit, most people, including seniors, end up standing for hours

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For thousands of families, collecting monthly ration has turned into an exhausting ordeal. From Bengaluru to rural districts, beneficiaries stand in queues from as early as 4 am, only to return home empty-handed as persistent server failures continue to cripple ration distribution under the state's Anna Bhagya scheme.

With only a couple of days left in the month, officials and ration shop owners admit that nearly 40% of beneficiaries have yet to receive their allotted food grains due to repeated technical glitches in the Food Department's software system.

The problem, which has persisted for nearly two weeks, has severely disrupted the supply of rice distributed under both the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and welfare schemes. Ration dealers say only around 58% to 60% of the monthly distribution has been completed so far, triggering panic among beneficiaries and mounting pressure on fair price shop operators.

Across Bengaluru, scenes outside ration shops resemble crowded

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

KAUSHIK JN

GLITCH IN TECH CITY

> "In normal circumstances, we can distribute ration to one beneficiary within five minutes. Now, because of the server issue, even serving 20 people in an entire day has become difficult
> — Kumarappa, ration shop owner

Blip in the app

Overwhelming response to BSWML's Dclutter app, but tech team is still ironing out loose ends

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Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) recently launched the Dclutter app with much fanfare and hope of better management of bulky waste.

The idea was to provide citizens with a way to responsibly discard items such as furniture, mattresses, sofa, fridge, washing machine, cot, etc.

However, citizens say the application, so far, has fallen flat in initiating action.

The Clutter app works exactly as intended when it comes to identifying and tracking issues. Resolving them, however, appears to be outside the scope of its capabilities, as the process still depends heavily on human intervention. "I booked a pickup of a discarded mattress on May 17. It was supposed to be picked up on May 23. However, I got a call from BSWML saying the pickup has been delayed and it will be done soon. But, the mattress is still there on my premises," said Vinay, a citizen. In some cases, while requests to pick up bulk waste were raised on Dclutter, it failed to provide any information on the pickup date.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Weekend bash

Atta Galatta is hosting It's Raining Dogs & Cats, a day of stories, creativity and community spirit with a playful celebration that blends literature, imagination and companionship, welcoming families, children and even their furry friends into the joy. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: May 30, 11 am onwards**

02 Joyful world

Magical World, an exhibition featuring a vibrant collection of artworks by Badrunissa Irfan, brings alive the magic of childhood and the warmth of simple moments through playful, hand-painted characters and scenes. **Where: Sublime Gallery, UB City; When: Until May 30**

03 Lost in the music

Candlelight® by Live Your City returns to Bengaluru this season, offering audiences intimate evenings where thousands of glowing candles transform venues into immersive settings for unforgettable live music experiences. **Where: Samarthanam Auditorium- Managed by Theatrenama; When: May 30, 6.30 pm, 8.30 pm**

04 Toons and treats

The Oterra Hotel is hosting a Kids Carnival Brunch, bringing a vibrant world of cartoon legends and superhero adventures. While parents enjoy a premium spread, children can dive into interactive games, live performances and more. **Where: The Oterra Hotel, 24@43, Electronic City; When: May 31**

05 Timeless duet

Rudraksha Live Entertainment Pvt Ltd presents Jazbaa, a concert featuring Vishal and Rekha Bhardwaj — a powerhouse duo in Indian music and cinema, known for their deeply moving collaborations and individual brilliance. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity; When: May 30, 7 pm**

B'luru makes progress in utilisation of NCAP funds

As per environment ministry data, city has used up nearly 80 per cent of total funds released under programme, underscoring efforts to bring down air pollution, particularly levels of PM10 in ambient air

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Many say air quality in the city has been worsening with rise in pollution (File photo)

Bengaluru, this year, has utilised Rs 3.6 crore under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) to improve its air quality. With this, the total fund utilised by the city between April 2025 and March 2026 is Rs 86.36 crores. Data from the central environment ministry's Prana portal also shows that Bengaluru, so far, has used nearly 80 per cent of the total fund released under the programme.

As per the data, Bengaluru has utilised Rs 431.03 crore out of the total Rs 541.1 crore released under NCAP. While Rs 176.81 crore was used in 2024-25, under Rs 29.27 crore was utilised in 2023-24, Rs 132.6 crore in 2022-23 and Rs 5.99 crore in 2020-21. Sources say this improves Bengaluru's chance to receive additional funds from the remaining amount, after a hiatus of three years, mainly due to underutilisation of the money already released by the Centre.

"Funds under NCAP have not been released to Bengaluru in the last three years due to non-compliance with fund utilisation criteria. However, considerable progress has been made by the Forest, Environment and Climate Change Cell (FECCC) of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) over the last two years in this regard, increasing Bengaluru's chance to receive the remaining amount," said an official from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), the agency responsible for disbursing the NCAP funds to GBA. As per MoEF&CC's guidelines, a non-attainment city will be eligible for the release of the first instalment of funds only after submitting Utilisation Certificates (UCs) showing that at least 75 per cent of the funds available in the previous year have been used. This includes both the unspent funds carried forward from earlier years and the funds released during the previous year.

For the second instalment, NACs must submit Utilisation Certificates (UCs) showing that at least 60 per cent of the available funds have been used. This includes the unspent balance as of the beginning of the financial year and the amount released as the first instalment during that year. Although the deadline for elections to the five city corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority was extended to August 31 by the Supreme Court, the situation continues to be dicey, experts say.

Under NCAP of the central environment ministry, Bengaluru secured funding through 15th Finance Commission Air Quality Grants. The fund is used primarily to bring down the PM10 level in ambient air.

City-based air quality experts, however, point to increasing pollution levels.

"Under NCAP, the fund is supposed to be utilised to bring down the PM10 level. However, the level of pollution has only been increasing in Bengaluru. The concentration of PM 10 is much higher in Bengaluru than the standard prescribed by CPCB. While GBA has a list of activities that it claims to have taken up under NCAP, these are clearly not working out," said a city-based researcher.

Suicide, kidnapping attempt stopped by prompt action

KR Puram police rescued a man attempting suicide on May 27 around 12.44 pm. According to police reports, a citizen had called the emergency helpline to inform officials about a man standing on the railway track, seemingly with the intention of committing suicide. The Hoysala 220 team reached the spot within 6 minutes, ensured the man's safety, counselled him and after providing him with necessary support and reassurance, reunited him with his family. In a separate incident, KR Puram police rescued a man who was allegedly being kidnapped by auto rickshaw drivers within the jurisdiction of Kadugodi Police Station near Sai Siddhi House in Sonnenahalli. — BMB

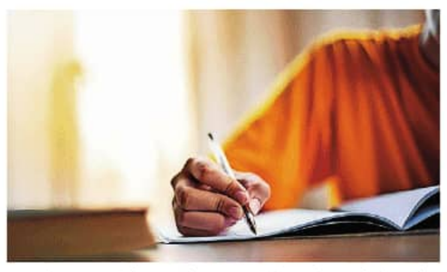
5% property tax rebate window to close on May 31

Citizens across the five city corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) have been urged to pay their property tax on or before May 31, 2026, to avail a 5 per cent rebate, according to Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao. The rebate applies to taxpayers in the Central, West, East, South and North city corporations for payments made during April and May of the 2026–27 financial year. Officials clarified that no rebate will be available from June onwards. Tax payments can be made online through the official portal https://bbmptax.karnataka.gov.in. For queries, citizens may contact the GBA helpline at 1533. — BMB

Fullinfaws College hosts job fair to aid student employment

Fullinfaws College organised Job Mela 2026 to help graduates connect with companies for job opportunities. More than 600 candidates from 64 institutions around Bengaluru participated and over 35 companies from IT, finance, manufacturing, retail and services took part. Around 107 candidates were shortlisted after aptitude tests, technical rounds and interviews. College officials said the event was also aimed at supporting unemployed youth and fresh graduates. They said another job mela is planned in July for final-year students entering the job market. — BMB

458 degree courses dropped over low admissions



The Department of Collegiate Education has scrapped 458 courses in government degree colleges across the state due to poor student enrolment, particularly in the Arts stream. Officials said demand has sharply declined for combinations involving Political Science, Economics, Optional Kannada and Sociology, while even Computer Science courses have seen weak admissions in tier-3 towns. During the 2025-26 academic year, as many as 1,091 course combinations received zero admissions, while 190 others recorded extremely low enrolment. Several colleges also reported no admissions for core science subjects such as Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics and Computer Science.

Defending the move, the department said continuing courses without demand would become a financial burden in the long run. At the same time, approval has been granted for 230 new courses, including BA, BSc, social work, skill-based and employment-oriented programmes. More than 186 colleges have also been allowed to admit up to 100 additional students in high-demand courses, while 26 government degree colleges have received permission to introduce BBA and BCA programmes. — BMB

Over 1.10 lakh candidates qualify for COMEDK counselling

The Consortium of Medical, Engineering and Dental Colleges of Karnataka (COMEDK) Undergraduate Engineering entrance test for 2026, conducted on May 9 across 303 centres in 171 cities, saw 1,10,774 candidates appear out of 1,30,620 applicants, including 36,954 from Karnataka and 73,820 from outside the state. Following the release of provisional answer keys on May 16 and expert-reviewed final keys on May 23 after 136 objections, COMEDK has now published candidate ranks based on percentile scores as the exam was held in two sessions.

Results are available via applicant login. An analysis shows 11,207 candidates in the 90–100 percentile, including 3,496 from Karnataka, while 11,385 fall in the 80–90 range and 10,940 in the 70–80 range. Notably, no Karnataka candidates feature in the top 10 ranks, though 30 are among the top 100.

Counselling will be conducted fully online through document upload and verification, while the seat matrix, fee details and counselling schedule will be released shortly on the official website. — BMB

Office summer layers every professional woman needs this season

Six breathable office-ready layering pieces that balance comfort, structure and style through freezing air conditioning and humid commutes

The office air conditioning is always either non-existent or aggressively cold, and dressing for both in the same outfit is a skill most working women have had to develop out of sheer necessity. Summer layering is not about piling on; it is about adding structure without trapping heat. The smartest layers for warm, humid office environments are sleeveless, breathable and easy to slip on and off as you move between the outdoor heat and the freezing interior of a meeting room. Think of these as functional style tools that refine your look while keeping you comfortable throughout a long workday.

So, if you are a professional woman, here are ten pieces worth keeping within reach.

Tailored waistcoat for instant structure

If there is one summer layer that earns its place without question, it is the well-cut waistcoat. A linen, cotton or lightweight suiting-blend version brings instant structure without the weight of sleeves, sharpening your look while allowing airflow through the arms and back. It works over a shirt for formal settings and just as convincingly when styled solo as a top for a more contemporary, minimal office aesthetic.

Structured blazer for a sharper finish

Whether sleeveless or lightly tailored with full sleeves, a structured blazer instantly refines whatever you are wearing underneath.Sleeveless styles feel lighter and more breathable in humid weather, while unlined blazers suit heavily air-conditioned offices. Avoid stiff or heavily padded layers for all-day comfort.

Open cotton shirt for effortless layering

Instead of treating your shirt as a base layer, try wearing it open over a camisole or tank and notice how much more intentional the silhouette becomes. Breathable cotton keeps you cool, while structured collars and cuffs add a polished touch without making the outfit feel overly formal.

Summer shacket for casual polish

Somewhere between a shirt and a jacket, the summer shacket is ideal for office environments where temperatures constantly fluctuate. Lightweight cotton twill, linen blends or soft utility fabrics add structure without the heaviness of traditional outerwear. It layers easily over dresses, tanks or work separates, instantly making the outfit look sharper, more polished and fashion-forward.

Sheer shrug for lightweight coverage

For moments when you need coverage but absolutely not warmth, this is the piece that solves the problem without creating a new one. AA sheer shrug adds light coverage over sleeveless outfits, making it ideal for formal settings and quick transitions from casual work hours to unexpected meetings.

Soft cardigan for freezing office hours

A summer cardigan should feel almost weightless, which is exactly what to look for when choosing one. Ultra-light knits that drape and fold easily are ideal for heavily air-conditioned offices. Soft, functional and easy to style, they add comfort without overpowering the outfit underneath.

—Femina

*T&C apply. Images used are for reference only. All prices mentioned are inclusive of all taxes. Buy2 Get1 free offer is valid till 31st May, 2026 on all T-shirts and is not applicable on Partner Brands. No two offers can be clubbed together. V-Mart reserves the right to amend the terms and conditions at its discretion without any prior notice. In case of any dispute, V-Mart has the right to make the final decision.

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Metro connectivity set to transform outer Bengaluru

More than 50 planned metro stations may boost residential, commercial and mixed-use developments across rapidly growing Bengaluru suburbs

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Bengaluru's expanding metro network is expected to trigger fresh real estate growth with the proposed 73-km mega corridor connecting Kalena Agrahara, Jigani, Kadugodi and Attibele. The Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has completed a feasibility report for the project and is expected to submit it to the state government soon.

The proposed corridor, likely to become the longest in the Namma Metro network, will run 68 km from Kalena Agrahara to Kadugodi, along with a 5-km spur line from Jigani to Attibele. The spur will also connect to the proposed international standard sports stadium near Anekal. More than 50 stations are planned along the route, linking rapidly developing residential and industrial areas including Bannerghatta Road, Sarjapur, Dommasandra, Varthur, Jigani and Attibele.

"The project is expected to significantly improve connectivity between Bengaluru's southern and eastern growth corridors, making these regions more attractive for residential, commercial and mixed-use developments

–K Nanje Gowda, a realtor

Sarjapur and Bannerghatta regions could witness fresh infrastructure growth

K Nanje Gowda, a realtor, said, "The project is expected to significantly improve connectivity between Bengaluru's southern and eastern growth corridors, making these regions more attractive for residential, commercial and mixed-use developments."

Officials said the project forms part of Bengaluru's larger metro expansion plan, with construction expected to begin by 2029 after approvals and DPR preparation.

Property owners may skip BESCOM office visits

Existing manual procedure often forces homeowners to submit numerous documents and wait weeks or months for approval from BESCOM

Property owners in Bengaluru may soon be able to transfer electricity connections to their names within minutes, as BESCOM plans to introduce a fully online and automated system for name change requests across Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) limits. The move aims to eliminate delays, reduce paperwork and curb corruption in the existing manual process that often forces consumers to visit BESCOM offices multiple times and rely on middlemen.

Under the proposed system, BESCOM's database will integrate with GBA's e-khata mutation records, allowing automatic verification of property ownership changes. Once an e-khata mutation is completed, electricity connections linked to the property can be transferred online without physically submitting documents. Officials said the service would particularly benefit apartment and multi-storey housing owners, where ownership changes happen frequently.

A senior BESCOM official said, "At present, property owners are required to submit physical applications at BESCOM subdivision offices along with documents including sale deeds, tax paid receipts, Aadhaar copies, indemnity bonds, no-objection certificates from previous owners and electricity bill receipts. After this, BESCOM officials conduct field inspections and verify records before approving the transfer. The entire process can take several weeks or even months."

SMS-based system will guide consumers through online transfer process

At present, property owners are required to submit physical applications at BESCOM subdivision offices along with documents including sale deeds, tax paid receipts, Aadhaar copies, indemnity bonds, no-objection certificates from previous owners and electricity bill receipts

–Senior BESCOM official

Consumers and industry sources have long complained that the system depends heavily on agents and brokers, creating scope for bribery and harassment. Apart from official fees, applicants often end up paying between ₹5,000 and ₹10,000 to complete the process quickly. Gathering multiple documents and repeatedly visiting offices has also remained a major inconvenience for homeowners.

The new digital system seeks to simplify the process entirely. During e-khata mutation, property owners must provide electricity account numbers linked to the property. If multiple connections exist, all account numbers must be entered. Once the mutation receives approval, ownership details will automatically sync with BESCOM's portal.

Customers will then receive an SMS containing the electricity account number and request ID for the transfer. Using the link provided, consumers can log into the BESCOM application, verify details, pay the prescribed fee, complete Aadhaar-based e-KYC and provide an electronic signature.

After e-signing the documents, customers can download records, and a confirmation SMS will be sent once the transfer is completed. Officials said the process can be completed in four to five minutes from anywhere and at any time. **–BMB**

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India needs 215 logistics parks

India's logistics sector has recorded a 59% improvement in efficiency, but the country will require around 215 Multi-modal Logistics Parks (MMLPs) to meet freight demand, according to a joint CII–Knight Frank India report.Freight movement is projected to reach nearly 28 billion tonnes by 2047, with MMLPs expected to link Dedicated Freight Corridors with fragmented industrial clusters and enable faster multimodal cargo movement.The report noted that despite infrastructure gains and logistics cost savings estimated at 10–10.5% of GDP, nearly 70% of freight still moves by road. Experts said logistics growth will depend on integrated infrastructure, last-mile connectivity and expansion of next-generation freight hubs under PM Gati Shakti and Bharatmala programmes. **–BMB**

B'luru drives 18% housing sales surge

Bengaluru remains a major driver of India's housing growth as listed developers collectively reported an 18% rise in pre-sales to ₹1.48 lakh crore in FY26, according to ANAROCK Research. Strong demand for premium and luxury homes, along with expansion into multiple cities, continues to support the sector's growth. While developers increasingly diversify into markets such as Mumbai, NCR, Hyderabad and Pune, Bengaluru continues to anchor southern India's residential market. The broader trend highlights a shift towards multi-city strategies, reducing dependence on home markets while tapping demand across high-growth urban centres. Bengaluru continues to play a key role in project launches and sales momentum across India's residential real estate sector overall. **–BMB**

AI boom fuels B'luru data expansion

Bengaluru is strengthening its position as an enterprise data centre hub in India, even as the country's data centre capacity is projected to cross 3 GW by 2028, driven by AI-led demand and hyperscaler expansion, according to CBRE's latest Asia Pacific outlook. The city is increasingly anchoring enterprise colocation demand within India's digital infrastructure ecosystem. India's data centre stock stood at around 1,700 MW in 2025, with 500 MW expected in 2026, placing the country among APAC's "Leading Markets". While Mumbai leads in hyperscale capacity, Bengaluru is emerging as a node for enterprise workloads alongside Chennai, Hyderabad and Delhi-NCR. CBRE noted India faces low bottlenecks across power, cost and labour. **–BMB**

Property guidance rates likely from July

The State Government has begun revising property guidance values using GIS technology, with updated rates likely to take effect from July 1. The Registration and Stamps Department is considering a 15-20 per cent increase based on actual market values. Officials said GIS-based assessment will ensure fair and realistic valuation of urban and rural properties instead of conventional methods. The state currently earns around Rs 1,800 crore to Rs 2,000 crore every month through stamp duty and registration charges and expects revision to generate an additional Rs 2,000 crore to Rs 2,500 crore annually. The last major revision took place in October 2023, when guidance values increased by an average 30 per cent following delays caused by the Covid pandemic across Karnataka. **–BMB**

Gang of burglars in police custody

Jayanagar police have arrested arrested five persons, including two juveniles, in connection with a theft complaint by a resident of Arekere on May 19. The police seized eight valuable watches of different brands worth a total of Rs 6 lakh. According to the complaint, the victim owns a house opposite a playground in Jayanagar 4th Block, which he visits regularly. On the afternoon of May 19, a neighbour living next door called the victim to inform him that the lock of the house had been broken. The victim found Rs 20,000 cash, watches, gold coins, silver articles, a mobile phone and other valuables stolen. Police arrested several accused, including two juveniles, recovered some stolen items from an accused person's house, and remanded three persons to judicial custody. One accomplice remains absconding, and investigation is underway. -BMB

Traffic rerouted amid metro work

Due to Metro construction work being carried out by BMRCL within the limits of the HAL Airport Traffic Police Station, traffic officials have imposed temporary restrictions on heavy goods vehicles on Varthur Main Road and Marathahalli Bridge on May 30, from 11 pm to 6 am.

Traffic police have temporarily restricted heavy vehicles travelling between HAL and Varthur-Whitefield via Varthur Main Road and Marathahalli Bridge in both directions.

Vehicles heading from HAL towards Varthur and Whitefield have been diverted via the Outer Ring Road and service roads near Marathahalli Bridge Junction. Traffic police have urged commuters to plan journeys in advance and follow diversion routes. -BMB

It's a free-for-all over tree fall

Four days since tree falls on to apartment, officials are busy throwing the ball into each others' court instead of taking action as residents live in fear

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A massive tree fallen on an apartment building in T Dasarahalli

In Bengaluru, residents often say that whether it is road cutting, drainage repairs or emergency civic work, responsibility rarely rests with a single agency. This pattern has surfaced again after a tree fall incident left a house damaged and unattended for four days, with multiple departments reportedly shifting blame instead of taking action.

A tree fall incident on 8th Main Road in Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, T Dasarahalli, under the Bengaluru North City Corporation, has triggered strong criticism from residents. They allege that civic agencies are engaged in a classic case of "passing the buck" while a dangerous situation continues to threaten a residential building for the fourth consecutive day. A massive tree, nearly 15 feet tall, collapsed onto a three-storey apartment building, causing visible cracks and structural stress, though fortunately no injuries were reported.

Residents say that while the tree has not obstructed traffic, its position resting against the building has made the situation increasingly dangerous, especially with the onset of rain and strong winds. Locals claim that despite multiple complaints, no agency has taken responsibility for removing the fallen tree, leaving residents living in constant fear of further damage or collapse. The delay, they say, reflects a breakdown in coordination between civic departments, with each shifting accountability instead of taking urgent action.

Resident Sachhidananda K said repeated complaints to different departments had yielded no resolution. "There is a power transformer next to the building. The last time a tree fell on the transformer, BESCOM was quick to trim the branches. But this time, nobody is taking responsibility. We informed the forest wing under the corporation, and a person came but said there was no crane facility to remove such a huge tree. Are we supposed to arrange cranes ourselves now?" he asked.

He further alleged that when they approached Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM), officials responded that since the tree had not fallen on electrical infrastructure, they would not intervene. "Even the police have not helped us. Everyone is pushing the issue on to someone else," he added.

Another resident, Yogi Kumar, said the situation had left families in the building extremely anxious, especially with forecasts of heavy rain. "People are shocked because they do not know what will happen if there is another squall or heavy rain. The tree is still leaning and could collapse at any moment. We keep hearing that fallen trees are cleared quickly by civic authorities, but in reality many are left like this for days," he said.

He also warned that any delay could have fatal consequences if the tree breaks further and falls on pedestrians or vehicles passing nearby.

Residents say the incident exposes poor coordination among civic agencies, with forest officials, electricity authorities and police allegedly avoiding responsibility during emergencies. Experts warn that ageing ornamental trees, weak inter-agency coordination and erratic weather are increasing tree-fall risks across Bengaluru, threatening lives and property.

Residents say the delay in clearing the fallen tree reflects wider accountability issues, leaving families anxious as more rain and wind could worsen the damage.

Narrow escape for couple in car

A car carrying a couple in their late 40s was crushed after a tree fell on it during heavy rain at around 9 pm on Thursday in 8th Block, Koramangala. The tree collapsed onto the moving vehicle amid strong winds and rain, severely damaging the car.

The couple escaped without serious injuries, according to residents who gathered at the spot following the incident.

The rain also brought down an electricity pole in the area. The pole snapped into two pieces and fell onto a nearby water tanker. Residents said the latest incident highlights a long-pending issue, as debris from a tree that fell near the same spot last week still lies uncleared despite complaints to the BBMP.

Residents alleged repeated complaints over uncleared debris and dangerous trees went unanswered.

Locals are now demanding urgent clearance and inspections, fearing risks to motorists and pedestrians during the monsoon.

-Muhammed Ameen

Auto driver crushed as rain-soaked wall collapses

In yet another deadly reminder of the city's crumbling infrastructure and official apathy, a 56-year-old auto-rickshaw driver was killed after a 15-foot compound wall of the Vijayanagar Club came crashing down during heavy rain on Friday evening. The victim, identified as Shiva (56), had parked his auto-rickshaw beside the wall between 6.30 pm and 7.45 pm when the rain-soaked structure suddenly gave way, burying him alive under tonnes of debris.

Shocked residents and passersby rushed to rescue him and alerted police officials. Shiva was pulled from the rubble and rushed to Victoria Hospital, but doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Police officials inspected the site and said a case will be registered based on the family's complaint. Investigators are also probing whether negligence and poor maintenance led to the fatal collapse.

This comes close on the heels of the wall collapse at Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital in Shivajinagar during heavy rain, which claimed seven lives. As relentless rainfall battered Bengaluru on Friday, several roads across the city were submerged under severe waterlogging, once again exposing the city's poor monsoon preparedness. -BMB

Splash and scurry

Heavy rain and flooded roads slowed Bengaluru commuters, with pedestrians wading through puddles amid traffic congestion and widespread disruption across the city

PICS: KAUSHIK JN

New flyover targets B'luru's peak-hour gridlock

A privately built 1.5-km flyover connecting Bengaluru's Outer Ring Road at Bellandur to HAL Airport Road is set to open for public movement shortly, offering relief to thousands of tech park employees and commuters facing heavy congestion in the corridor. The flyover, passing through the Prestige Tech Park campus on Outer Ring Road, has already opened for employee movement since Monday, while final touches and pending works are being completed before full public access begins. The project received BBMP approval in April last year and was largely completed within a year.

Officials said the flyover will provide an alternative route for motorists travelling from Outer Ring Road towards Yemalur and HAL Airport Road, particularly during peak-hour congestion near Kadubeesanahalli and Marathahalli junctions. Apart from easing traffic movement for around 5,000 employees working in parks, the project is also expected to reduce pressure on the ORR stretch. Most portions were constructed within the tech park premises and along public road sections. **–BMB**

Suspension alert on Purple line

The Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited announced a temporary suspension of services on a section of the Purple Line on May 31, 2026, due to maintenance work between Attiguppe and Vijayanagar. Train operations between Deepanjalinagara and Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Metro Stations will remain suspended from 7 am to 9 am. Services will continue normally on all other stretches, including Challaghatta–Mysuru Road, Kempegowda (Majestic)–Whitefield (Kadugodi), Madavara–Silk Institute, and R V Road–Bommasandra. Full services on the affected Purple Line section will resume at 9 am after completion of the essential maintenance work. **–BMB**

Rejuvenated Seegehalli Lake turns into dump

Activists blame poor coordination between Lake Department and BWSSB for allowing sewage into restored water bodies

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City Corporations continue spending huge amounts on rejuvenating lakes across Bengaluru, but lack of coordination between the City Corporation Lake Department and Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) engineers allows sewage and floating trash to enter water bodies, raising concerns over misuse of public funds.

Seegehalli Lake, located in KR Puram Assembly constituency in Bengaluru East, highlights the issue. The lake was rejuvenated nearly a decade ago by the then Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). Residents and lake activists initially welcomed the restoration work and expected long-term protection from pollution. However, they now express disappointment over the authorities' response to recurring contamination.

According to residents, sewage and floating trash continue entering the lake during heavy rainfall through storm water drains that are meant to carry only rainwater. They said the repeated inflow of waste defeats the purpose of rejuvenation efforts undertaken at significant cost.

Residents and lake activists have urged authorities to install an effective trash catcher grill to stop garbage from entering the lake. "I am not happy with the measures taken by the Lake Department to prevent trash entering the lake. I believe installing a low-level trash guard serves no purpose. Floating trash enters the lake without any hurdles whenever it rains heavily. Authorities must remove the existing trash guard and install a three to four feet height trash catcher grill to prevent garbage entering the lake," said Balaji Raghotham, a lake activist.

Appealing to authorities to protect the lake, another activist, Vishwanatha Reddy, said large quantities of garbage enter the water body during heavy rain. "The lake department officials must take measures to stop garbage entering the lake that was rejuvenated at an estimated cost of Rs 8 crore a decade ago," he said.

However, Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) Executive Engineer Bhooprada said the existing trash barrier is unsuitable for large lakes like Seegehalli Lake. "I have already instructed my subordinates to clean the storm water drain that carries rainwater to Seegehalli Lake. The existing trash barrier will be replaced with a suitable trash barrier," said the executive engineer.

Floating trash entering Seegehalli Lake

"I am not happy with the measures taken by the Lake Department to stop trash entering the lake. Low-level trash guards serve no purpose, as floating garbage enters freely during heavy rain. Authorities must replace the existing barrier with a three to four feet-high trash catcher grill

–Balaji Raghotham, a lake activist

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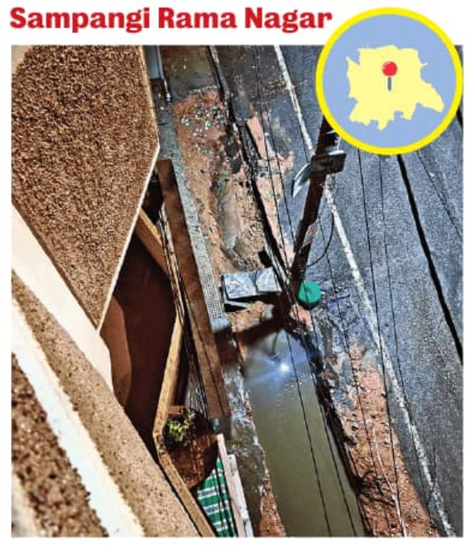
Flooded streets
Kadugodi

Severe drainage blockage at Theru Beedhi in Kadugodi, Mahadevapura, is causing rainwater to overflow onto roads, leading to flooding and stagnant dirty water that continues disrupting pedestrians and vehicles even after rainfall stops.

Unsafe stretch
Sampangi Rama Nagar



Recently dug-up and incomplete road and drainage work at the entrance from Raja Ram Mohan Roy Road to Sri Rama Mandira Road in Sampangi Rama Nagar has turned the stretch into a waterlogged, dumping-like zone, creating unsafe walking conditions and reportedly causing a resident to sustain a leg injury.

Recurring server problems impact ration dealers, beneficiaries

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

railway platforms. Elderly citizens, daily wage workers and women with children line up for hours hoping the server may briefly function.

"In normal circumstances, we can distribute ration to one beneficiary within five minutes. Now, because of the server issue, even serving 20 people in an entire day has become difficult," said Kumarappa, a fair price shop dealer. "People wait for hours and finally leave without getting anything."

The situation worsened significantly after Monday, with repeated authentication failures bringing distribution to a near standstill in several districts. Dealers say server instability has become unpredictable, functioning intermittently for a few minutes before crashing again.

"The problem reduced slightly on Thursday afternoon, but nobody knows how the system will behave in the coming days. Nearly 40% of beneficiaries are still waiting for ration. Completing distribution before the month-end looks impossible," another ration dealer said.

Tension brews

The crisis has also triggered tensions at ration outlets. In Dasanapura recently, a man waiting in queue was allegedly assaulted after questioning the delay in distribution.

For senior citizens, the ordeal has become physically draining. "I stand in queue as early as 4 am even though ration shops open only around 8 am or 9 am because I want to be among the first," said Vasanth Kumar, a senior citizen from Bengaluru. "But even after waiting for hours, there is no guarantee that we will get ration that day." Anitha Devappa, another beneficiary, said the lack of basic facilities has made matters worse. "There is no place to sit while waiting. Standing for hours is extremely difficult for senior citizens, especially when we are told the server is down again," she said.

According to the Food Department, the present disruption intensified after the Centre decided to distribute May and June rice allocations together under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana. Beneficiaries are now required to complete biometric authentication twice to receive both allocations, further burdening the already strained system.

Karnataka currently has around 1.20 crore ration cards covering nearly 4.43 crore beneficiaries under the Anna Bhagya scheme. Every beneficiary receives 10 kg of rice per month, including 5 kg provided under the Centre's Garib Kalyan Yojana and another 5 kg supplied by the state government.

Food grain distribution is carried out through nearly 20,500 centres across Karnataka, including fair price shops, CCS outlets and VSSN centres. Every month, approximately 4.34 lakh metric tonnes of food grains are distributed across the state.

Ration dealers claim server-related problems have become a recurring issue despite the Food Department introducing a new software platform. They allege that using the same server infrastructure for multiple government departments results in constant overload and repeated outages.

"The government must find a permanent solution. Every month, both ration dealers and poor beneficiaries suffer because of technical failures," members of the Karnataka State Government Ration Distributors' Association said.

The association has urged the government to temporarily allow OTP-based or checklist-based authentication instead of mandatory biometric verification until the technical issues are resolved. Food Department officials, however, maintain that the disruption is temporary. Officials said fair price shop timings have now been extended from 6 am to 10 pm to reduce inconvenience to the public.

The department also blamed outdated computers, poor internet connectivity and dependence on mobile hotspots at several ration outlets for worsening network congestion. Officials claim instructions have already been issued to modernise systems and install broadband connections at affected shops within the next two months.

But for lakhs of beneficiaries waiting outside ration shops with ration cards in hand, relief still appears far away.

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Karnataka to consider extending Yellow Line to Attibele
The Karnataka government plans to extend the Namma Metro Yellow Line. It will go beyond Bommasandra towards Attibele.
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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

NATURE'S FIERCE GLANCE Our reader shares a striking image of a Shikra perched gracefully on a Bottlebrush tree opposite her residence. Captured from the terrace, the bird's sharp gaze and poised stance made for a memorable moment before it swiftly flew away. The Shikra plays an important role in maintaining ecological balance by naturally controlling populations of smaller birds, lizards, and rodents.

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Venkatalakshmi S**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

DID YOU KNOW?

A US-based biotechnology company has announced a major breakthrough in its ambitious effort to revive the extinct South Island Giant Moa, a massive flightless bird native to New Zealand. Colossal Biosciences said 26 healthy baby chickens have successfully hatched using its newly developed artificial egg platform. The company, known for its "de-extinction" projects, said the technology could play a crucial role in bringing back species such as the moa and the dodo using ancient DNA. The artificial egg system uses a silicone-based membrane inside a rigid shell-like structure that mimics the gas exchange, moisture regulation and temperature control of a natural egg. Colossal CEO Ben Lamm said the system allows embryos to develop safely while researchers monitor growth in real time. The process is particularly important because no living bird is large enough to lay a moa egg, which is about eight times bigger than an emu egg.

The company is currently working on sequencing moa genomes using ancient DNA samples as part of the long-term revival project. **— Reuters**

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

HSRP glitches leave Karnataka's vintage vehicle owners in limbo

Defunct manufacturers and portal errors stall compliance, blocking transfers, renewals, and ownership changes for lakhs of old vehicles statewide

Thousands of vehicle owners in the State are struggling to comply with the mandatory High Security Registration Plate (HSRP) rule as technical glitches and the shutdown of several automobile companies have made it nearly impossible for many owners of old vehicles to obtain the new number plates. The Transport Department has made HSRP compulsory for all vehicles purchased before April 1, 2019, but owners of vintage cars and discontinued vehicle models say they are stuck in bureaucratic limbo, unable to secure HSRP plates or even obtain No Objection Certificates (NOC) required for vehicle transfers and ownership changes.

According to official estimates, Karnataka has nearly 2.45 crore vehicles registered before 2019, including around 2 crore vehicles that are over 15 years old. While the scrappage process for ageing vehicles has begun, it is not mandatory for private vehicles, allowing roadworthy old vehicles to continue operating legally.

The problem has worsened because several automobile manufacturers such as Daewoo, Opel, Mitsubishi Motors, Harley-Davidson and Ford Motor Company have either shut operations in India or exited the market. Owners say that when they enter vehicle details on the Transport Department's HSRP portal, the system fails to recognise the manufacturer's name, preventing them from booking or purchasing number plates. With no clear guidelines on alternative procedures, many owners are making repeated visits to Regional Transport Offices seeking answers.

The issue has also disrupted inter-state vehicle transfers. Similar complaints have emerged from owners of classic and vintage vehicles across Bengaluru and other parts of the State. Officials admit there is confusion over how vintage vehicles that are over 50 years old should be registered or renewed under existing rules. Though such vehicles are generally not permitted for regular road use, owners frequently showcase them during rallies, exhibitions and special events.

Vehicle owners make repeated visits to transport offices amid confusion over HSRP registration procedures.

Transport officials maintain that there is currently no restriction on vehicles older than 15, 20 or even 30 years obtaining HSRP plates, provided the vehicle data matches records in the Vahan database. However, without HSRP, owners cannot transfer ownership, change addresses in registration certificates, add or remove hypothecation details, obtain NOCs or legally sell their vehicles. **— BMB**

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Is RBI running any donation or lottery compensation scheme? Check details

The Claim: An email falsely claiming to be from the Reserve Bank of India says recipients must pay a credit fee under "Donation Program 2026" to receive lottery compensation or funds. The message asks for bank details, ID proof, contact numbers and other personal information, making the offer appear official, urgent and financially rewarding to unsuspecting victims online.

Fact: The Press Information Bureau Fact Check unit confirmed the email is fake and part of a phishing scam. Neither the RBI nor any government authority runs such donation, lottery or compensation schemes. Citizens should avoid sharing banking information, ignore advance payment requests and report suspicious messages to official channels immediately.

An email circulating online claiming to be sent from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is asking people to pay a credit fee under 'Donation Program 2026' or to receive compensation payment for winning a lottery. The Press Information Bureau (PIB) Fact Check team, in a social media post on X (formerly Twitter), said that the message is fake and that the RBI is not running any such scheme.

According to the PIB Fact Check, the email is part of a phishing attempt aimed at cheating people and stealing money or sensitive financial information from them.

PIB Fact Check issues warning

In its post on X, the PIB Fact Check clarified that neither the RBI nor any government authority is running any such donation programme, lottery compensation payment, inheritance fund or related scheme.

The government also warned people not to trust emails or messages that promise large payouts in exchange for upfront payments or processing charges.

In a social media post on X, the PIB Fact Check team said, "Neither the Reserve Bank of India has issued any such email, nor is it running any such donation programme, compensation payment for winning lottery or any other fund or scheme."

Fraudsters seek personal and banking details. The fake email also asks for details such as:

- Bank account name
- Bank account numbers
- IFSC/SWIFT code
- Full name
- Address
- Mobile number
- WhatsApp number
- ID proof copy

Cyber fraudsters often use the names of trusted institutions such as the RBI or government departments to make scams appear genuine.

How to report suspicious online messages

The PIB Fact Check team has asked citizens to report suspicious content related to the Central Government through the following channels: WhatsApp: +91 8799711259; Email: factcheck@pib.gov.in. Advisory for citizens Citizens have been advised to:

- Avoid clicking on suspicious links
- Never share banking details, passwords, OTPs or personal information
- Ignore emails or messages demanding advance payments
- Verify information only through official government or RBI channels

With online financial frauds increasing, experts say people should remain cautious about unsolicited emails and messages promising lottery winnings, donations, compensation payments or easy money. **— ET online**

CHANGE OF GUARD

The many coups of Vidhana Soudha

Glimpse into Karnataka's political journey shaped by turbulent power shifts, defections, central leadership pressure, emotional departures and relentless survival battles

KAUSHIK.JN

In Karnataka politics, a Chief Minister's exit is rarely a simple transfer of power. It usually begins with whispers in party corridors, hurried trips to Delhi, missing MLAs, late-night negotiations and growing rebellion within the ranks. By the time the resignation finally arrives, the real battle has already been fought behind closed doors. Over the decades, Karnataka has witnessed some of India's most dramatic political power shifts.

Delhi turning against Devaraj Urs

Long before social justice became central to Karnataka politics, Devaraj Urs had already reshaped the state's caste equations through backward class mobilisation and laid the foundation for what later evolved into AHINDA politics. Ironically, the same Urs who engineered Indira Gandhi's dramatic comeback through the 1978 Chikkamagaluru by-election soon found himself isolated as Sanjay Gandhi's influence grew within the Congress. After breaking away to form Congress (Urs), he believed his mass base in Karnataka would hold firm. But once Indira Gandhi returned to power at the Centre in 1980, political loyalties shifted overnight. Legislators and leaders who once stood firmly behind Urs quickly deserted him for the Congress high command. As his support base collapsed rapidly, Urs quietly resigned, President's Rule was imposed and R Gundu Rao took over.

File photo of Devaraj Urs

The runway humiliation

Veerendra Patil's removal remains one of the most painful chapters in Karnataka Congress history. After leading the party to a massive 178-seat victory in 1989 on the strength of his clean image and administrative credibility, Patil soon found himself isolated within his own party amid communal unrest and a severe stroke that left him bedridden. As rivals within the Congress mounted pressure on the Delhi high command, Rajiv Gandhi visited Bengaluru in October 1990 and, in a moment that shocked Karnataka politics, casually announced at HAL Airport that the state would soon get a new Chief Minister. Patil reportedly learnt about his removal through television while recovering from illness, an episode many Congress veterans still describe as deeply humiliating. Though he initially resisted resigning, President's Rule was briefly imposed before he was eventually replaced by S Bangarappa.

File photo of V Patil (Left)

First taste of resort politics

S Bangarappa was more than just a Congress Chief Minister. Popularly known as "Solillada Saradara" (undefeated warrior), he enjoyed enormous support among rural and backward communities. But his aggressive style of functioning and growing popularity triggered unease within the Congress, leading senior leaders such as M Veerappa Moily and KH Ranganath to rally support against him. Allegations linked to the Classic Computer scandal and tensions during the Cauvery unrest further weakened his position, while dissident MLAs began shuttling to Delhi and holding closed-door meetings in hotels and resorts, marking Karnataka's early brush with what later became known as resort politics. Despite fighting till the very end to retain power, Bangarappa was forced to step down in November 1992, paving the way for Veerappa Moily to take over as Chief Minister.

File photo of Bangarappa (Left)

Seven days that changed K'taka politics

The 2007 JDS-BJP power-sharing collapse became one of Karnataka's biggest political dramas after HD Kumaraswamy, who had formed a coalition with the BJP in 2006, hesitated to hand over the Chief Minister's post to BS Yediyurappa as agreed under the 20-20 formula. As tensions escalated and negotiations failed, the BJP withdrew support, leading to President's Rule. Though the JDS briefly restored support and Yediyurappa became Chief Minister, his government lasted just seven days. Refusing to compromise, an emotional Yediyurappa resigned in the Assembly saying he would "go to the people's court," an episode that later helped the BJP gain political sympathy and eventually form its first full-fledged government in South India.

Tearful adieu

BS Yediyurappa's 2021 resignation marked the emotional end of a long political era in Karnataka. After his return to power in 2019 following the fall of the Congress-JDS coalition, Yediyurappa eventually faced mounting pressure within the BJP over leadership change. At the second anniversary celebrations of his government on July 26, 2021, an emotional Yediyurappa suddenly announced his resignation as Chief Minister. —BMB

DKS to be elected as CLP leader today

DK Shivakumar is expected to be officially chosen as the leader of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) on Saturday paving the way for his appointment as the Chief Minister-designate of Karnataka. The formal announcement is likely to come after the CLP meeting scheduled for 4 pm on Saturday at Vidhana Soudha's Conference Hall. Speaking to reporters on Friday, Shivakumar clarified that discussions regarding the new State Cabinet's composition are still ongoing and that no final decisions have been made so far. He noted that consultations with the Congress high command continue as the party works to finalise key positions in the new government. All Congress MLAs have been instructed to stay in Bengaluru and attend the crucial CLP meeting, where the leadership decision is expected to receive unanimous approval. Party leaders are also believed to be discussing ministerial allocations, regional representation and balancing various factions. —BMB

Cabinet race intensifies ahead of DKS govt

As DK Shivakumar prepares to take oath as Karnataka Chief Minister next week, intense lobbying has reportedly begun within the Congress over Cabinet positions and key appointments. Sources indicated that several ministers from the outgoing Siddaramaiah government may not find a place in the new Cabinet. To ensure caste and regional representation, the party is also considering appointing four Deputy Chief Ministers. Yathindra Siddaramaiah, son of Siddaramaiah and a Member of the Legislative Council, is likely to be inducted into the new ministry and could be assigned an important portfolio as part of efforts to retain Siddaramaiah's political influence within the government. Meanwhile, the Congress is confident of winning at least two of the four Rajya Sabha seats from Karnataka. —BMB

Governor accepts Siddaramaiah's resignation

Thaawarchand Gehlot on Friday accepted Siddaramaiah's resignation as Karnataka Chief Minister and formally dissolved the Council of Ministers headed by him. Invoking powers under Article 164(1) of the Constitution, the Governor issued an official notification confirming the resignation and dissolution of the Cabinet with immediate effect. However, Siddaramaiah has been asked to continue as caretaker Chief Minister until alternative arrangements are made. In his communication, the Governor also directed that no major executive decisions be taken during the caretaker period. Siddaramaiah had submitted a brief resignation letter on May 28, requesting the Governor to accept his resignation from the post of Chief Minister. —BMB

Congress leaders discuss K'taka Cabinet strategy in New Delhi

Senior Congress leaders, including Siddaramaiah, DK Shivakumar and KJ George, held key discussions in New Delhi on Friday as the party intensified consultations over the formation of Karnataka's new government and Cabinet structure. Shivakumar also met several Congress leaders separately at a hotel in the national capital amid ongoing deliberations by the party leadership. The meetings come a day after Siddaramaiah stepped down as Chief Minister, triggering the formal transition process within the state government. Amid speculation over organisational changes in the Karnataka Congress unit, Satish Jarkiholi dismissed reports linking him to the post of State Congress President. He said any decision would be taken only after Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar conclude talks with the party high command. —BMB

Siddaramaiah, Rahul Gandhi hold meeting

Siddaramaiah on Friday met Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at 10 Janpath a day after stepping down as Karnataka Chief Minister. Rahul Gandhi warmly welcomed Siddaramaiah during the meeting, which came amid the Congress party's leadership transition in the state. Though he has resigned, Siddaramaiah will continue as caretaker Chief Minister until the new leadership takes charge. Sources said Siddaramaiah thanked the Congress leadership for giving him the opportunity to serve two terms as Chief Minister. —BMB

Leadership change was preplanned, says Moily

Former CM M Veerappa Moily has revealed that the leadership change in Karnataka was part of a preplanned arrangement within the Congress party. Calling it a "smooth and structured transition," Moily said the decision to hand over leadership after two-and-a-half years had been agreed upon when Siddaramaiah began his second stint as Chief Minister. According to Moily, Siddaramaiah was aware from the beginning that a leadership shift would eventually take place, although he was given additional time to continue in office. The senior Congress leader stressed that the transition was being carried out with mutual understanding and aimed at maintaining stability within the party. —BMB

App launched for doorstep pick-up of bulky items

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"There are many issues with the application. I raised a request to pick up my bulk waste over the last weekend. However, I did not receive any update on the date and time of the pick-up," said another citizen.

While BSWML has been conducting door-to-door collection of municipal solid waste in the city, bulky waste items were not part of this collection. There was no dedicated system to pick up discarded bulky items, leading to these items being jettisoned on roads, becoming eyesores.

The Dclutter app was launched for doorstep pick-up of bulky items to ensure these items are not discarded along roads or into an empty plot.

According to BSWML CEO Karee Gowda, the response to the app has been overwhelming. However, some technical issues are still being ironed out, leading to difficulties that users are facing.

"Our technical team is currently working on some loose ends, which is expected to take three to four weeks. Once these issues are resolved, the service will be smoother. Despite these issues, we have already picked up a large amount of bulky waste such as mattresses, furniture, etc. Nearly 80% of the waste that we have collected through Dclutter has been reused or recycled. The response from citizens has been tremendous, and in the first month of the launch itself, we have received a large number of requests," said Gowda.

As of now, the pickup of bulky waste is being done by BSWML only on Sundays.

Dharmasthala activist gets relief from arrest

The Karnataka High Court has granted anticipatory bail to social activist Mahesh Shetty Thimarodi in a case accusing him of making derogatory remarks against a woman and linking her to Rajya Sabha member and Dharmasthala temple administrator Veerendra Heggade.

Justice R. Nataraj observed that custodial interrogation was unnecessary as the case primarily revolved around an alleged telephone conversation between Thimarodi and another individual, Prajwal. According to the complaint, the recorded conversation was later forwarded to the complainant's son, who informed his mother about its contents.

The woman alleged that Thimarodi made offensive remarks insinuating that she had an illicit relationship with Heggade and his family members. She claimed the statements insulted her modesty and promoted enmity between communities.

"The case revolves around a telephone conversation and there is no requirement for custodial interrogation," the court observed, adding that the need for voice samples and forensic analysis could be addressed through suitable bail conditions.

The court directed Thimarodi to execute a personal bond of Rs 2 lakh with a solvent surety and warned that any violation of conditions could lead to cancellation of bail. **BMB**

Your Connect

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, CHANCHAL KUNWAR SOLANKI (old name), W/o. Dilip Singh Madan Singh, Residing at: No. 8 Anand Bhavan 1st Main Road Near Rr Bakery Udayanagar Bengaluru 560016, have changed my name to CHANCHAL KANWAR (new name) vide affidavit dated: 28/05/2026 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

I, S KARISHMA, Residing at #76, Siddanna Lane, Near Ram Medical, Nagarthpet, Bengaluru – 560002, have changed my name to KARISHMA S JAIN, vide affidavit dated 11/05/2026, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, ROGER FERNANDEZ CHRISTY, Residing at #39, MIG 2 Group 3, KHB Colony, Mysuru - 570018 have changed my name to ROGER FERNANDES CHRISTY, vide affidavit dated 22/05/2026, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, VEDAVATHI PRASANNA KUMAR (Old Name) W/o Prasanna kumar Bychapura Kempaiah, Residing at No.34, 1st Main 2nd Cross KHB Colony Krishnanandanagar Nandini Layout Bengaluru-560096 have changed my name to VEDAVATHI NERALEKERE RANGASWAMY vide affidavit dated: 26/5/2026 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

I, URJA VINOD JAIN residing at 537, 5th A Cross, 3 B Main, OMBR Layout, Banaswadi, Bengaluru – 560043, have changed my name to URJA JAIN vide affidavit dated 29/05/2026 sworn before notary B. Seshagiri Bengaluru

I Sunitha Karoshi Praveen D/O, Nanjundaswamy S R/o K706 Purva Fountain Square Apartments Marathahalli Bengaluru-560037 have changed my name to Sunitha Chamarajanagar Nanjundaswamy.

I, MANU TAKKAR R/o Flat No. 9173 Tower 9 17th Floor, Prestige Lakeside Habitat, Varthur Road, Gunjur, Bangaore 560087 have changed my minor Daughter's name from REHMAT TAKKAR to RAAVYA TAKKAR

I Kavitha Rani Prasad, residing to Banashankari 3rd stage Girinagar Bengaluru 560085,I changed my name to Kavitha Prasad

I, Akshita, W/o Sumeet Swapnil, R/o A401, 4th Floor, Fortuna Blue Wings, Veerbhadra Nagar, Bengaluru, Basavanagar, PO: Doddanekkundi, DIST: Bengaluru, Karnataka, 560037 have changed my name to Akshita Sumeet Swapnil for all purposes.

I, Ramapriya Narayanaswamy S/O, Ramiah Narayanaswamy R/o #34, Amruthadhare, 2nd Cross, pearl Paradise Layout, Kempapura, Yemalur Post B'luru 560037 have changed my name to Ramapriya Reddy.

I, Anshul Krishnadas Bhagwat, R/o Flat No. 1J19, Kristal Jasper, Off Sarjapura Road, Near Amrita College, Bengaluru-560035, have changed my name to Anshul Krishnadas Vidya

I Rama Prasad Hanasoge Krishnaswamy, residing to Girinagar Bengaluru 560085, I changed my name to Ram Prasad Hanasoge Krishnaswamy

I, Meena Jain w/o Suresh Kumar Jain, residing to 43/13-2 4th cross kanteerava nagar Bengaluru 560096,I changed name to Meena Kumari

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Temple revenues surge amid rising statewide pilgrim footfall

Free travel schemes, digital donations and rising religious tourism lifted revenues at Karnataka's major temple during 2025–26 fiscal year

INFOCUS
REVENUE SURGE

Karnataka's leading temples recorded a strong revenue rise during 2025-26. The combined income of the state's top 11 temples increased by nearly 8.1 per cent compared to the previous financial year. Total revenue collections rose from ₹557.07 crore in 2024-25 to ₹602.23 crore this year, reflecting a sharp revival in religious tourism and higher pilgrim footfall across the state.

Kukke Subramanya Temple in Dakshina Kannada district remained Karnataka's richest shrine, with its revenue rising by around 7.7 per cent from ₹155.95 crore last year to ₹167.89 crore in 2025-26. The temple also increased expenditure on infrastructure and facilities from ₹79.82 crore to ₹85.20 crore during the same period.

Officials attributed the surge largely to the State Government's Shakti scheme, which offers free bus travel for women and has significantly boosted the number of female devotees, especially at shrines dedicated to goddesses. Mysuru's Chamundeshwari Temple and Kollur Mookambika Temple in Udupi district witnessed some of the highest growth rates. Revenue at Chamundeshwari Temple jumped nearly 57 per cent, rising from ₹50.68 crore to ₹79.67 crore, while Kollur Mookambika Temple recorded an increase of around 16.8 per cent, with collections going up from ₹71.93 crore to ₹84 crore. Savadatti Renuka Yallamma Temple in Belagavi registered a 4.5 per cent rise, while Huligemma Temple in Koppal saw collections increase by about 7.3 per cent.

Among other temples, Durgaparameshwari Temple in Udupi posted an 11.8 per cent increase, Ghati Subrahmanya Temple in Bengaluru Rural recorded growth of nearly 10.6 per cent, and Bengaluru's Banashankari Temple rose by close to 10 per cent. However, a few shrines saw declines. Male Mahadeshwara Temple in Chamarajanagar registered a drop of nearly 4.8 per cent due to reduced pilgrim turnout linked to wildlife movement in the forest region. Nanjangud Srikanteshwara Temple in Mysuru and Siddalingeshwara Temple in Tumakuru also reported lower revenues. Muzrai department officials said increased use of online services, e-hundi systems and prasada facilities contributed to higher donations. They added that temple revenues are utilised only for developmental works, pilgrim amenities, annadanam halls, accommodation and sanitation facilities, while surplus funds are deposited in fixed deposits under respective temple administrations.

Kukke Subramanya Temple in Dakshina Kannada district continued as Karnataka's highest revenue-generating temple, with income rising 7.7% from ₹155.95 crore last year to ₹167.89 crore in 2025–26

Women devotees, improved facilities and expanding online services helped several prominent shrines witness record earnings, while a few temples reported declines due to local challenges

CRIME FILES

Youth stabbed after heated road altercation

A road rage dispute over giving way allegedly turned violent near Pattanagere under the RR Nagar police station limits on Tuesday night, leaving a first PU student who was also working part-time critically injured in a stabbing attack.

According to the complaint filed by Harshit R, he and his friends Aditya, Kushal, Rohit and Jeevan, who frequently met at a juice shop near Global Village back gate, got into an altercation with three unidentified men between 8 pm and 8.30 pm on May 27.

Police said Harshit rode one bike while Aditya and Kushal travelled on another two-wheeler. After the argument escalated, the accused allegedly assaulted the group near Rocks Bar before intercepting Aditya again near Pallavi Dhaba and stabbing him multiple times. Aditya is undergoing treatment while RR Nagar police continue searching for the accused. —BMB

2 killed after brake failure causes crash

Two motorists were killed and three others, including a pedestrian, were injured after a mini-bus allegedly suffered brake failure and rammed into multiple two-wheelers and pedestrians near Bendre Circle in Banashankari on Thursday night.

The deceased were identified as Uday Kumar (63), a resident of Banashankari 2nd Stage, and Selva Kumar (52), a resident of Banashankari 3rd Stage. The injured, identified as Kumar, Ramamurthy and Vasanthanath, are undergoing treatment and are said to be out of danger.

Police said the accident occurred around 8.40 pm near AM Hospital in Kadirenahalli when the driver, Nagaraja, allegedly lost control amid heavy rain and slow-moving traffic. The mini-bus crashed into five two-wheelers and pedestrians. Police registered a case of rash and negligent driving and started further investigation into the incident. —BMB

Pant steps down as captain after Lucknow finish last

Rishabh Pant has given up the captaincy at Lucknow Super Giants after they finished bottom of the Indian Premier League for the first time, the franchise announced on Friday.

Wicketkeeper-batter Pant, who was picked up by Lucknow for a tournament-record $3.21 million in the player auction before the 2025 season, was appointed team captain in January.

But the India international struggled with inconsistent form as he oversaw a dismal campaign in which Lucknow won four of their 14 matches, missing out on the IPL playoffs for the third time in a row.

Pant approached the franchise to be relieved of his captaincy duties and the team management have accepted the 28-year-old's request, Lucknow said in a statement.

"These decisions are never easy. We are grateful for everything Rishabh has brought to this dressing room as captain," said Tom Moody, the franchise's director of cricket. —Reuters

Police urge public not to hold open celebrations after final

Bengaluru City Police issued a public advisory asking citizens to avoid public celebrations after the IPL 2026 final involving Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), stressing the need to maintain law and order and prevent disturbances across the city. In the advisory issued on Friday, police stated that no form of public celebration should occur in open spaces after the final match result. The use of LED screens or public display setups without prior permission is prohibited, and installing screens outside malls, pubs, and other public venues for live viewing is also restricted. The police further stated that bursting crackers, performing stunts, bike rallies, overspeeding, misuse of honking, and blocking roads will not be allowed. Citizens were also warned against consuming alcohol in public places, creating disturbances, or engaging in fights or provocative behaviour. The advisory also cautioned against spreading rumours or provocative content on social media and urged fans not to target or provoke supporters of other teams under any circumstances. Traffic police instructions must be strictly followed, and discipline in crowded areas has been emphasised to ensure public safety during and after the match. —BMB

Another day, another record for Sooryavanshi

Rajasthan Royals (RR) teen prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi became the fastest player to complete 1,000 runs in an Indian Premier League (IPL) season in terms of balls taken.

Sooryavanshi registered another massive score in another knockout match, producing another gem of a knock when his team lost wickets at the other end. The 15-year-old left-hander made 86 in 47 balls, with eight fours and seven sixes at a strike rate of 204.26.

In 16 matches, Sooryavanshi has scored 776 runs in 16 matches and innings at an average of 48.50, with a strike rate of 237.30, with a century and five fifties and a best score of 103. It also includes 63 fours and 72 sixes, making it a generational season on all counts.

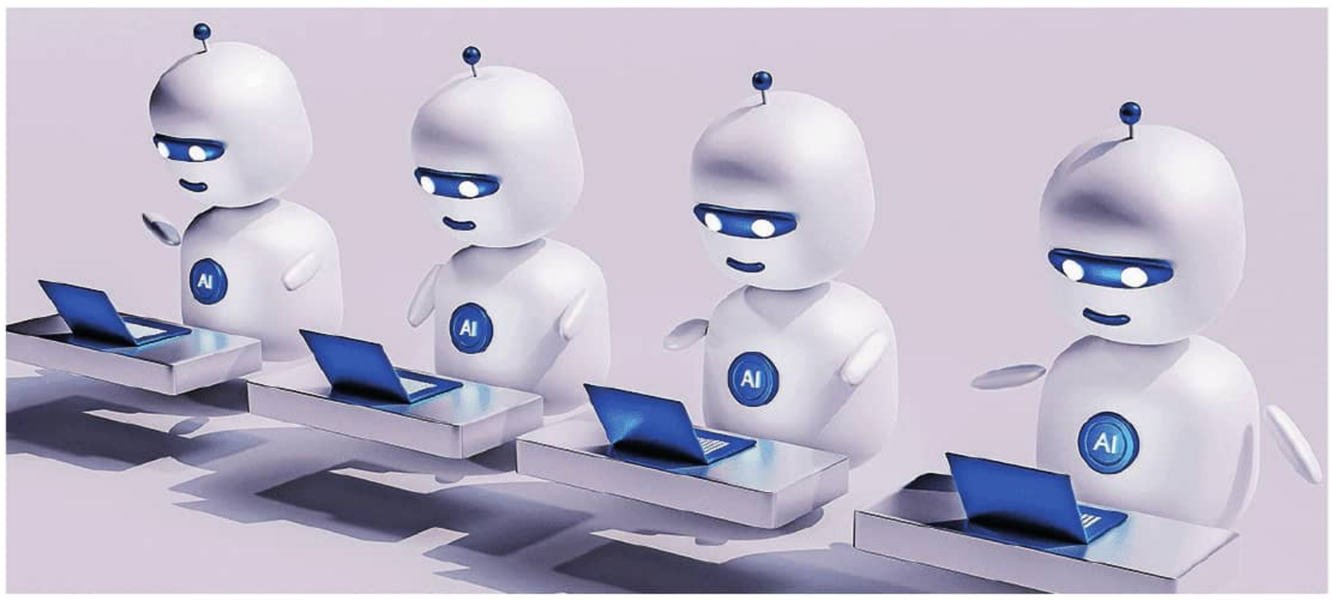
This is the fifth-best IPL season in terms of runs, with Virat Kohli (973 runs in 2016), Shubman Gill (890 runs in 2023), Jos Buttler (863 runs in 2022) and David Warner (848 runs in 2016).

In 23 matches and innings, Sooryavanshi has 1,028 runs at an average of 44.69 and a strike rate of 228.95, including two centuries and six fifties, with a best score of 103. He is the fastest to reach 1,000 IPL runs, in just 440 balls, outdoing West Indies legend Andre Russell (in 545 balls). He is also the first-ever batter in IPL history to have 500 or more runs in one edition during the powerplay stage, with 521 runs at a strike rate of 233.33. —ANI

Rajasthan Royals' Vaibhav Sooryavanshi arrives on field before the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 Qualifier 2 T20 cricket match

Your next job interview could be with an AI bot

Applied for a new job? If you've been shortlisted, get ready to be interviewed by artificial intelligence



Deluged by a flood of AI-generated job applications from easy-apply job boards, recruiters are turning to AI to cope. Companies are using chatbots to interview candidates, typically at the screening stage, through phone calls, text messaging or video chats with on-screen avatars. Many people find AI job interviews unsettling, though the trend seems here to stay. According to recent research by hiring platform Greenhouse, more jobseekers are reporting they've faced AI job interviews.

Here's what to expect from an AI job interview and how to do your best:

Whatever the interview format, the fundamentals still apply, said Amanda Augustine, a career coach at Careerminds, which helps companies support laid-off workers with resume writing and job search services. Ahead of the interview, review the job profile, research the organisation, and understand what it's looking for.

"The more prepared you are, the easier it will be to tailor your responses, even when you're interacting with AI instead of a person," she advised.

If you've never done an AI job interview before, the first time could be unnerving or unsettling.

I did a demo AI interview set up by Netherlands-based TestGorilla, one of numerous platforms providing recruitment tools for companies. First came two sets of questions, one that tested problem-solving skills and another gauging work experience. Then I faced an AI-generated female face. "My goal is to learn more about you and the experiences, skills and competencies that you might bring to this role," it said, adding that I should plan to spend about two minutes to answer each of three questions.

Unlike a human interview, there was no warm-up chit-chat, no chance to build a rapport.

Experts say the best way to get over that is preparation.

"You need to practice out loud," said Priya Rathod, workplace trends editor at online job board Indeed. "And when I say practice out loud, I mean, say the actual answers out loud," because the chatbot needs to record what you're saying, she said.

Also keep in mind you're providing information about yourself to a machine, not having a conversation. "You have to be particularly descriptive and a very clear communicator in your language so that they can pick up on things that a regular interviewer might pick up through your facial expressions and tone," Rathod said. An AI interviewer "cares less about my tone and more about what it is that I'm saying".

Use an online interview simulator to prep — there are many available. They can record your answers and provide instant feedback on your content, delivery or pacing. They'll also help you get used to speaking into a camera, manage time limits and give your answers in a structured way, Augustine said.

For my demo interview, the AI grilled me for a communications professional role. One question it asked was how I use AI in my "workflow," including examples of both success and failure. When I replied that I saved lots of time with an AI transcription tool for interviews and other recordings, it summarised my answer and then asked me if I wanted to add anything else. I wasn't sure whether I had answered satisfactorily. I scored "below average" on this question, according to TestGorilla's assessment, which said I provided "no concrete metric" such as minutes saved. "The improvement claim is therefore vague," it said.

AI interviewers are asking these "behavioral questions" because they want candidates to provide examples of how they handled specific work situations, complete with numbers and metrics, Rathod said. "Those are the kinds of questions that AI relies heavily on. And the trap that we see a lot of people falling into is giving vague answers," she said.

Candidates should still rely on tried and tested tactics like the STAR method — short for situation, task, action, result. Be prepared to talk about a specific work situation and the task assigned to you, the action that you took, and the result, Rathod said.

Don't neglect the physical setup of your desk and computer — it's still important even if the video-based interview is with AI, and not a person.

Jobseekers might be tempted to use AI to help come up with answers. After all, they're so easy to use and if you're not talking to a human, no one will be able to tell, right? "That's a big no-no because it's pretty obvious" to both the AI interviewing tool and anyone who might review the recording, said Rathod. **AP**

Blue Origin rocket explodes on launchpad in setback for bid to catch SpaceX

An uncrewed Blue Origin New Glenn rocket exploded on a Florida launchpad during a test on Thursday, in a setback for Jeff Bezos' space venture as it seeks to narrow the gap with Elon Musk's IPO-bound SpaceX.

Video posted by NASASpaceflight, which livestreams launches from Florida, showed the towering New Glenn rocket igniting on the pad at about 2100 ET (0100 GMT on Friday) before erupting into a massive fireball that billowed skyward, sending a towering plume of flames and smoke into the air.

Blue Origin was preparing the rocket for its fourth launch, which was due to deliver 48 Amazon Leo satellites into low-Earth orbit, part of efforts to build a broadband constellation to rival Musk's Starlink network. Amazon Leo satellites were not integrated on the rocket at the time of the incident, a source familiar with the matter said, asking not to be named due to its sensitivity.

The explosion marks the latest setback for the long-delayed New Glenn, which is supposed to play a central role in delivering lunar landers and cargo under NASA's

Artemis lunar exploration missions. It comes just two days after NASA awarded Blue Origin a $188 million contract to land rovers on the moon's surface, and less than a week after SpaceX - years ahead in development - carried out a largely successful test of its next-generation Starship rocket.

Blue Origin confirmed it had experienced an "anomaly" during a hot-fire test, where a rocket engine is fired up while anchored to the ground.

"Very rough day, but we'll rebuild whatever needs rebuilding and get back to flying. It's worth it," Bezos said in a post on X, adding that it was too early to know the root cause. Musk responded on X to a video of the Blue Origin explosion, saying, "Most unfortunate. Rockets are hard." **Reuters**

BITS & BYTES

DELL ON A ROLL

Dell's shares surged 33% on Friday as the PC maker's blockbuster results showed that its growing focus on AI servers was helping it capitalise on the data center boom, making the company one of the biggest beneficiaries of the new technology.

The company, whose AI servers are crucial components in the global AI infrastructure build-out, is set to add $68 billion to its market value of about $206 billion, if gains hold.

A household name in the PC market, Dell has in recent years scaled up its AI hardware business. **Reuters**

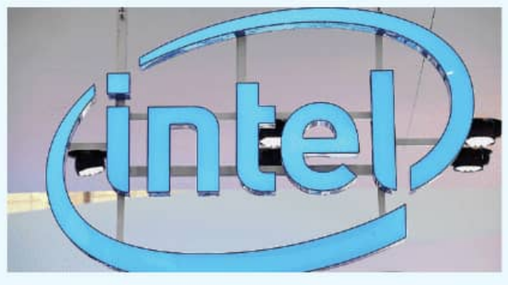
SURGING COST OF AI

The rapid adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) across industries is triggering concerns over surging costs and inefficient usage, even as companies continue to aggressively invest in the technology, according to a latest report by Jefferies.

The report said that while AI adoption is accelerating globally, many corporations are now facing a backlash over escalating compute expenses driven by employee experimentation with AI tools.

The report noted that "AI for now is costing more money than it is saving", highlighting growing concerns among hyperscalers and corporate users over rising expenditure despite falling token costs. **ANI**

INTEL, ODISHA INK PACT



Chip maker Intel Corporations has signed a pact with the Odisha government and 3DGS to bring semiconductor substrate manufacturing technology to India, an official said on Friday.

Union Minister of Electronics and IT, Ashwini Vaishnaw along with Chief Minister of Odisha, Mohan Charan Majhi, Intel CEO Lip-Bu Tan, and other dignitaries, witnessed the signing of an MoU to bring substrate manufacturing technology to India, the statement said.

"Congratulations to the Govt of Odisha, Intel and 3DGS... This will further advance the semiconductor ecosystem in India," Vaishnaw said. **PTI**

WHAT'S IN A NAME? QUITE A BIT

Renaming PCOS to PMOS was a 10-year process of listening to patients, health professionals

A disease's name can have a significant influence on its diagnosis and treatment – or lack thereof. Polycystic ovary syndrome, or PCOS, is a condition that affects millions of people worldwide. For decades, doctors thought the condition mostly affected the ovaries, but its misleading name has left many people undiagnosed and at risk of developing several related chronic conditions at a young age.

In a study published on May 12, 2026, in the medical journal The Lancet, an international team of researchers and health professionals formally announced the renaming of the condition to polyendocrine metabolic ovarian syndrome, or PMOS. Dr. Melanie Cree, a pediatric endocrinologist at the University of Colorado Anschutz, was part of the team behind the renaming.

The Conversation asked Dr. Cree to guide readers through this decade-long renaming process and explain what this renaming means for the future of PMOS care.

What is PMOS?

Polyendocrine metabolic ovarian syndrome, or PMOS, is a condition that affects many parts of the body – hormones, metabolism, mental health, skin and the reproductive system. The signs and symptoms of this complex condition often start in the teenage years and continue after menopause.

PMOS affects approximately 1 in 8 women globally, amounting to over 170 million women worldwide. However, it is estimated that 70% of women with PMOS may not know they have this condition.

Most people with PMOS have higher insulin levels than those without the condition, and this contributes to worse metabolic disease, including Type 2 diabetes, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, excess liver fat, weight gain and obstructive sleep apnea.

A 2025 study of over 87,000 women in the United States found that more than 45% of those with PMOS had a metabolic disease diagnosis – such as prediabetes, diabetes, high blood pressure or high cholesterol – compared to around 25% of those without PMOS. Additionally, over 16% of those with PMOS had problems getting pregnant, compared to under 4% of those without PMOS.

Why change PCOS to PMOS?

A global call from patients and health professionals started in 2015 to establish a more accurate and appropriate name for the condition. The previous name, polycystic ovarian syndrome, or PCOS, is imprecise and confusing to patients, families and physicians.

The average time to diagnosis takes more than a year and often requires visits to multiple providers, in part due to confusion around the condition's name.

A 2015 study found that 85% of patients thought ovary cysts were the primary feature of the condition. The old name overemphasized the role of the ovary in this condition and did not describe how PMOS can affect many body systems. There is no increase in abnormal cysts on the ovary, only partly developed eggs – which form a fetus when its mature form is fertilized by sperm – that can look like cysts.

Confusion over the signs and symptoms of PMOS has contributed to not only delayed diagnosis and fragmented care but also stigma and anxiety about the condition and disengagement with care.

What was the process to change the name?

Over the course of 10 years, an international team of health professionals and researchers and I discussed renaming PCOS. Our expertise spanned various disciplines, including obstetrics and gynecology, endocrinology, pediatrics, dermatology, radiology, primary care, nutrition science and psychology.

The first eight years of this process included two rounds of global surveys of patients and health professionals in 2015 and 2023. Over 14,000 participants across regions and disciplines contributed their voices across both rounds. From these surveys, we found that 86% of patients said they wanted to change the name of the condition. Doctors and health professionals also strongly supported changing the name, believing that the benefits would outweigh the risks.

In the past two years of this process, we brought together leading academic, clinical and patient organizations to establish a formal approach to change the condition's name. This involved iterative global surveys and consensus workshops to identify key principles, acceptable terminology and ways to implement changes that are feasible and easily communicated.

Participants prioritised scientific and medical accuracy, clarity, ease of pronunciation, avoiding stigma, and cultural appropriateness. The majority preferred an updated name that reflected the endocrine, metabolic and ovarian features of the condition, rather than retaining the existing acronym or adopting a generic term.

This renaming process highlighted the importance of inclusivity and thoroughness in renaming a disease. It also established a basis for implementing the name change worldwide.

The new name – PMOS – is clearer and more accurate, better reflecting what the condition really is because it was shaped by people who live with it every day and those who care for them.

How will renaming PCOS to PMOS change care?

Our hope is that professional and patient education on the new name will allow specialists to better diagnose, study and treat PMOS.

Many people with PMOS are not tested for metabolic disease, even though they are at a higher risk of developing Type 2 diabetes and heart disease at younger ages compared to those without PMOS. If people with PMOS are checked for metabolic problems earlier, these conditions can be prevented or treated.

(Melanie Cree, University of Colorado Anschutz, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Blood test could help detect signs of Alzheimer's disease decades before symptoms: Study

A blood test may be able to identify signs of Alzheimer's disease decades before symptoms appear, with higher levels of biomarkers such as tau proteins in the brain signalling worse cognitive performance and an accelerated decline, a study published in The Lancet journal has suggested.

The neurodegenerative condition steadily affects memory and thought processes, eventually interfering with daily functioning. The disease begins with the accumulation of amyloid-beta (Aî²) protein plaques and phosphorylated tau protein tangles in the brain.

Amyloid and tau proteins are important for normal functioning, but can prove toxic upon accumulation and cause neuron death.

Researchers, including those from the University of California San Francisco, US, said measuring the levels of amyloid-beta and tau proteins in blood has become a way to track changes in the proteins, and can be used for diagnosing Alzheimer's disease.

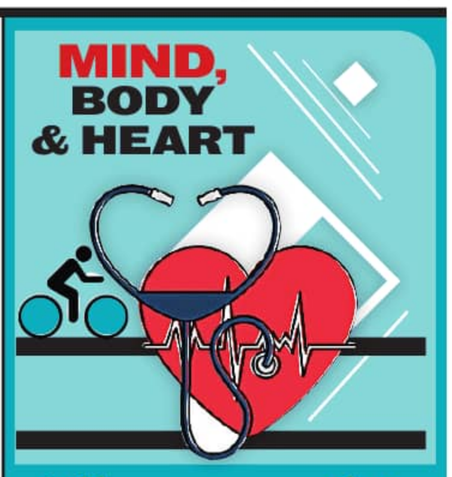
The study measured levels of the biomarkers 'Aî²42', 'Aî²40', and p-tau217 in the blood of 1,350 dementia-free adults in the US with an average age of 61 years.

Standard high cut-off levels of Aî² and tau associated with AD were identified in six per cent (86 out of 1,350) of the study participants.

High levels of the biomarkers were associated with a worse midlife cognitive performance on cognitive processing speed and executive function, which enables planning, focusing attention, and adapting to new challenges.

The researchers also found higher rates of accelerated decline on verbal memory and processing speed tests taken five years apart among those with high levels of the biomarkers.

The findings demonstrate the potential of detecting early-stage AD among middle-aged adults using blood tests, they said. —PTI



All you need to know about...

Banana benefits

Potassium for the heart
Bananas are packed with potassium, a mineral that helps regulate blood pressure and supports heart function, reducing the risk of hypertension and heart disease. For women, especially as they age, maintaining heart health is crucial, and bananas can be a simple part of the solution.

Digestion on track
The high fiber content in bananas aids in digestion, helping to prevent constipation and promoting a healthy gut. Fiber also helps in maintaining blood sugar levels. A healthy digestive system supports overall well-being, and bananas make it easy to stay on track.

Energy boost
Bananas are an excellent natural energy source. The carbohydrates in bananas provide quick energy, making them a great pre- or post-workout snack. For busy women constantly on the go, bananas are a simple, energy-boosting snack that fits into your routine.

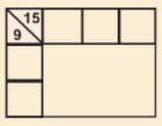
Mood lifter
Bananas are rich in tryptophan, an amino acid that the body uses to produce serotonin, the "feel-good" hormone, helping to improve mood and reduce stress. Women juggling work, life, and everything in between can count on bananas to help manage stress naturally.

Weight-friendly snack
Bananas are low in calories yet rich in nutrients and fiber, helping you feel full longer. Their natural sweetness can also curb sugar cravings, making them a good snack option. They're perfect for those looking to maintain a balanced diet without feeling deprived. Turns out, the humble banana has been quietly doing the heavy lifting for your health all along. From keeping your heart happy to supporting your hormones and gut, it's time this everyday fruit got the credit it deserves.

—Femina

Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



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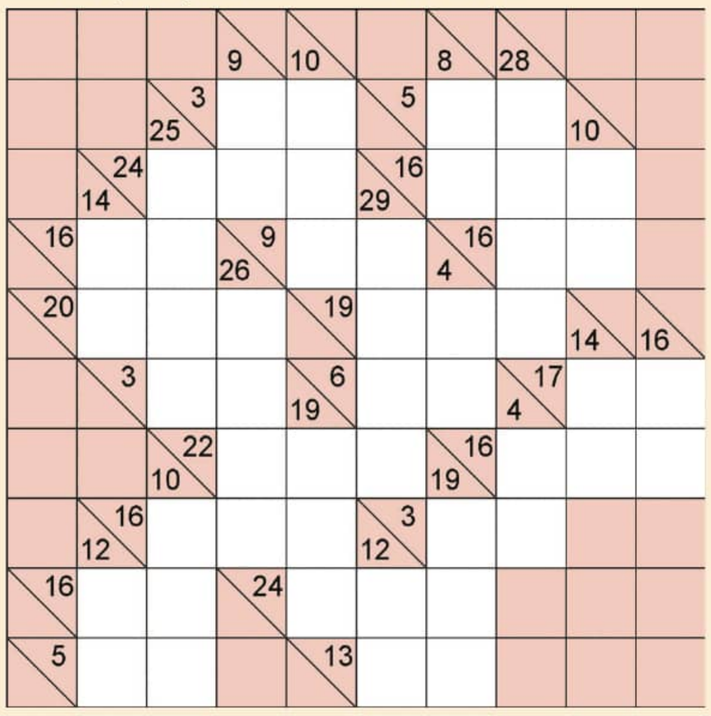
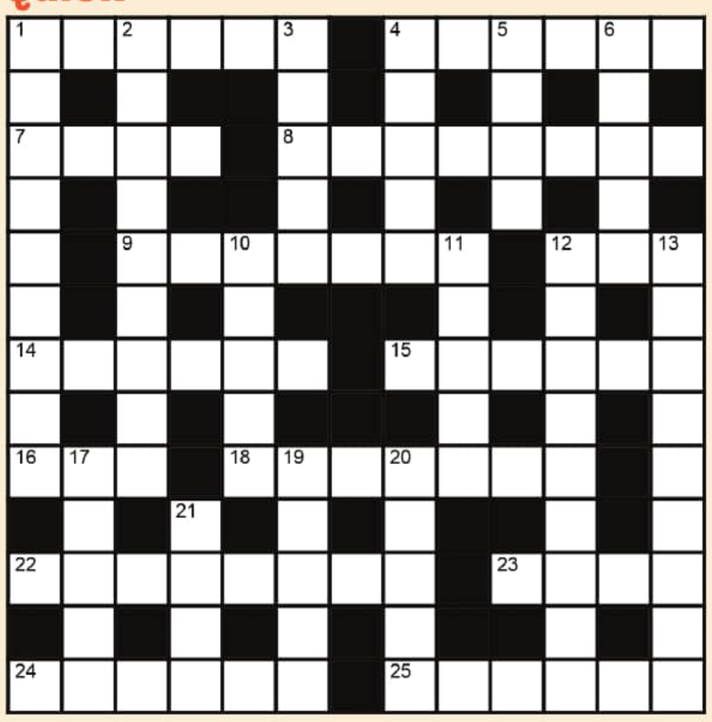


Quick



ACROSS

1 A particular item (6)
4 Karnataka's popular idli variant (6)
7 Nimble (4)
8 Scorn (8)
9 Thesaurus entry (7)
12 Wield vigorously (3)
14 Flowers (6)
15 A poser or a problem (6)
16 Clear, with of (3)
18 The papacy or papal court (4,3)
22 Captivating (8)
23 Prefix meaning "fire" (4)
24 Urge (6)
25 Czech composer (6)

DOWN

1 Tear limb from limb (9)
2 Entrance (9)
3 Milk as a prefix? (5)
4 Thin and unmusical (5)
5 Copied (4)
6 'Fiddler on the Roof' actor (5)
10 Woodland goddess (5)
11 ___ half-way : responds to the advances, in a way? (5)
12 Commuter (9)
13 Standard for comparison (9)
17 Book reference (5)
19 Planetary path (5)
20 Surrender (5)
21 Therefore; hence (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: T EQUALS Y

QBNVI TBNP VNAQBJMP, EKU TBN'PM IEXOGET QIMPM.

Linemaro

I came out for an easy run and you made my heart do speed work

Mindchow

Nobody can go back now and start a new beginning, but anyone can start now and make a new ending

Joke of the day

In China, the piano piece 'Chopsticks' is known as 'Knife and Fork.'

Loop

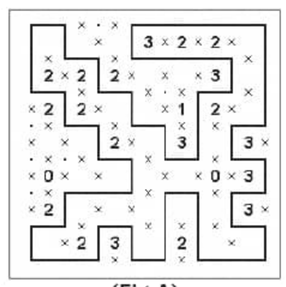
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

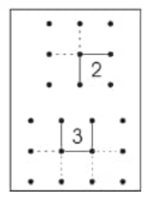
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

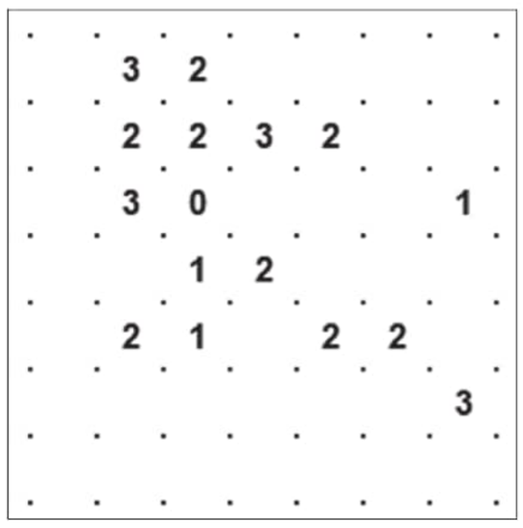
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



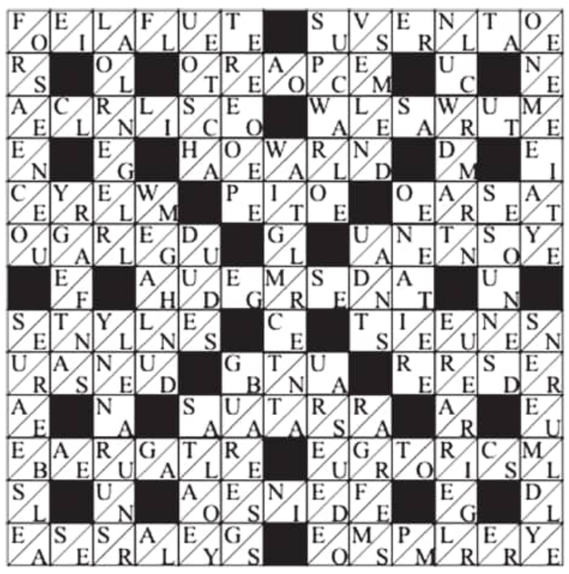
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



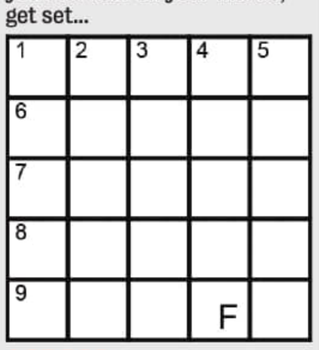
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

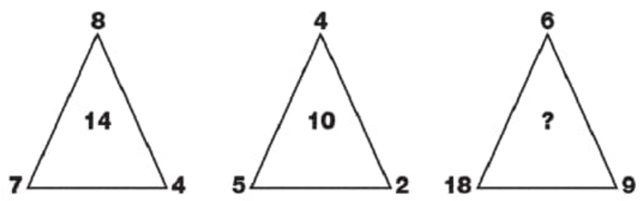
1 As CGS; 6 I Rome; 7 A lion; 8 Socle; 9 If Ken

DOWN

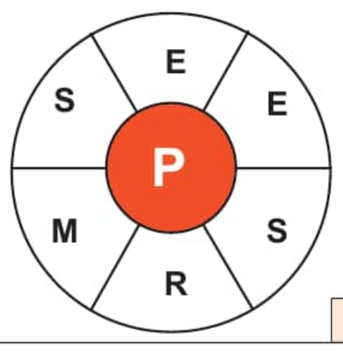
1 Macks; 2 On col; 3 A oil I; 4 If Erg; 5 Essen

Mensapuzzle

Which number is missing from the middle of the last triangle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; **05** Good; **07** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

3		8			9			
			2		3		9	
	1			5	7			4
4			7				6	5
8								9
1	5				2			3
9			3	7			2	
	6		8		1			
			9			1		8

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 14
2 2 4 6

Medium = 21
2 4 7 8

Hard = 21
2 3 5 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

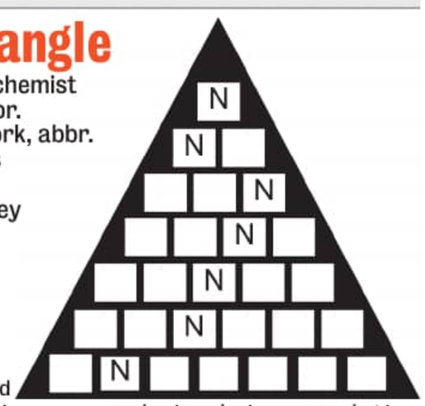
Differences: 1. Clippers are longer. 2. Top ladder rung is higher. 3. Tree trunk is thinner. 4. Zipper is not showing. 5. Shirt is different 6. Window is different

Riddler

How is failure represented in the rebus below? Options: A) Success B) Victory C) Triumph D) Accomplishment

Alpha triangle

1 Nitrogen for the chemist
2 Not available, abbr.
3 Local Area Network, abbr.
4 It's near a radius
5 Of the moon
6 Long tailed monkey
7 Sharp-cornered



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

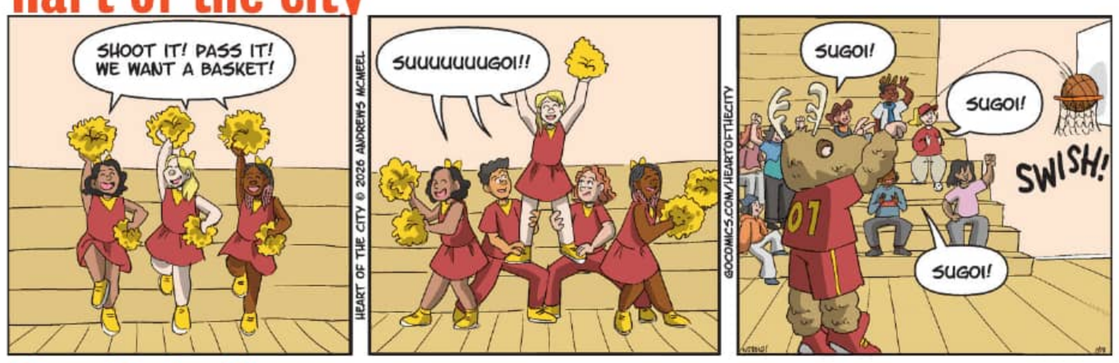
BUT I WANTS TO COMMUNICAKE! I HAS SUMPIN' IMPORTINK TO SAY!
NOT NOW! I YAM BUSY!
PLEASE!
I HASTA COMMUNICAKE WIT' SOMEONE!
-AN' FURTHERMORE, THE WORLD WOULD BE BETTER IF THEY WOULD - BLA - BLA- BLA AND BLA--
?
?
8-28
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

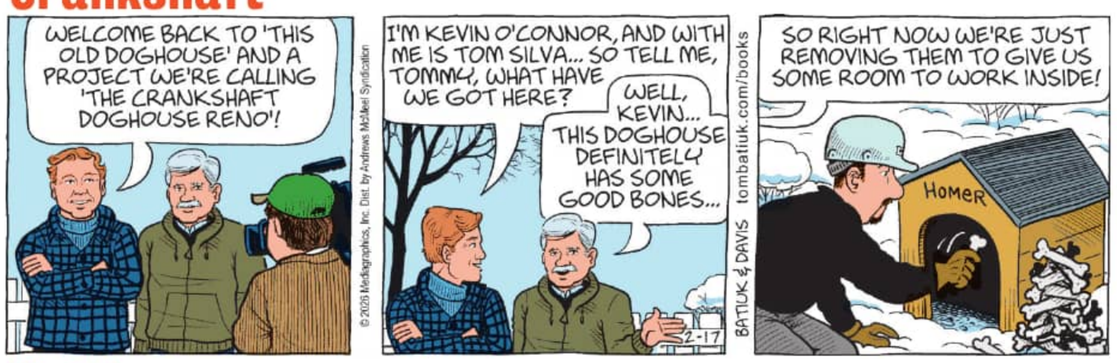
Diamond Lil

...THEN THERE WAS A CURLY-HAIRED HEAD-TURNER I DATED FOR A WHILE. THAT DIDN'T WORK OUT, EITHER
WHY NOT?
SHE WANTED TO DATE OTHER GUYS. YOU KNOW... PLAY THE FIELD
AND WHAT, PRAY TELL, WAS HER NAME?
FREIDA ROAM!
©2015 creators.com
2/18
www.creators.com

Hart of the city



Crankshaft


WELCOME BACK TO 'THIS OLD DOGHOUSE' AND A PROJECT WE'RE CALLING 'THE CRANKSHAFT DOGHOUSE RENO'!
I'M KEVIN O'CONNOR, AND WITH ME IS TOM SILVA... SO TELL ME, TOMMY, WHAT HAVE WE GOT HERE?
WELL, KEVIN... THIS DOGHOUSE DEFINITELY HAS SOME GOOD BONES...
SO RIGHT NOW WE'RE JUST REMOVING THEM TO GIVE US SOME ROOM TO WORK INSIDE!
Homer
2-17
tombatiuk.com/books
BATIUK & DAVIS
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Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

Dr SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

A year of high-speed movement and frequent changes awaits you. You might find yourself travelling for work or moving between different social circles. Stay adaptable and keep your bags packed for spontaneous opportunities. Your ability to process information quickly keeps you ahead of the curve. Focus on grounding yourself daily to prevent feeling scattered by the fast pace.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Reflection is necessary as the month winds down. Journal about your progress and acknowledge your growth. Forgive yourself for past mistakes; you are moving forward with newfound wisdom and grace.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Focus on gratitude as you look back at May. Write down three things that brought you peace. Focusing on the positive attracts more abundance into your life for the future.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
A sense of accomplishment fills your day. Celebrate the progress you've made toward your goals. Your hard work and dedication are paying off in many beautiful and unexpected ways today.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Intuition is your guiding light. Trust your gut feelings as you navigate a complex situation. Your inner wisdom provides the clarity you need to make the right decision for yourself.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Social energy is high. Connect with friends and enjoy a night out. Laughter and good company are the perfect way to recharge your batteries and celebrate the end of May.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Professional success is within reach. Your hard work and dedication are recognized and celebrated. Stay humble and continue to strive for excellence in everything you do for your career.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Balance is the key to your happiness. Ensure you are taking care of your physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. A healthy equilibrium allows you to live a more fulfilling life.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Deep transformation is occurring within you. Embrace the changes and trust the process. You are becoming a stronger, wiser, and more authentic version of yourself with every passing single day.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Adventure is calling. Start planning your next big trip. The anticipation of new experiences brings a sense of excitement and fuels your natural wanderlust for the wide, open world.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Financial security is a priority. Review your long-term goals and make a plan for your future. Your discipline and hard work ensure that you are building a solid financial foundation.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Your unique perspective is valued by those around you. Share your ideas and inspire others to think outside the box. Your innovative spirit is a catalyst for positive, lasting change.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
A long-standing logistical puzzle finally finds a solution today. Clear your schedule to handle pending administrative tasks. Methodical organization brings a surprising sense of relief to your usually fluid mind.

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Ashwin, Bengaluru

Arun, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= √[(27)^1/3 + 5 − (25)^1/2 +6]
= √[3 + 5 − 5 + 6]
= √(14 − 5)
= √9 = 3

BULL'S EYE
EMPRESS, peer, perm, press, seep, sperm, spree

RIDDLER
Failure is not an option

FAST FIVE

S	C	A	G	S
M	O	I	R	E
A	L	O	I	N
C	O	L	E	S
K	N	I	F	E

STRIKE OUT

F	I	L	L	E	T	■	S	V	E	L	T	E	■	■
R	O	■	T	R	A	C	E	■	U	■	N	■	■	■
A	L	N	I	C	O	■	A	L	A	R	U	M	■	■
N	■	G	■	H	O	A	R	D	■	D	■	I	■	■
C	R	E	W	■	P	I	E	■	E	A	S	T	■	■
O	A	R	E	D	■	L	■	A	N	N	O	Y	■	■
F	■	A	U	G	M	E	N	T	■	U	■	■	■	■
S	T	Y	L	E	■	E	■	T	E	E	N	S	■	■
U	S	E	D	■	G	N	U	■	R	E	D	E	■	■
A	■	A	■	S	U	T	R	A	■	R	■	E	■	■
B	E	R	A	T	E	■	E	G	O	I	S	M	■	■
L	■	N	■	A	S	I	D	E	■	E	■	L	■	■
E	S	S	A	Y	S	■	O	S	P	R	E	Y	■	■

QUICK

E	X	H	O	R	T	■	D	V	O	R	A	K	■	■
■	E	■	G	■	I	■	L	■	E	■	G	■	■	■
A	D	O	R	A	B	L	E	■	I	G	N	I	■	■
■	N	■	E	■	R	■	I	■	N	■	T	■	■	■
R	I	D	■	H	O	L	Y	S	E	E	S	■	■	■
E	■	L	■	P	■	T	■	S	■	■	D	■	■	■
B	L	O	O	M	S	■	T	E	A	S	E	R	■	■
M	■	H	■	Y	■	E	■	A	■	A	■	■	■	■
E	S	Y	N	O	N	Y	M	■	P	L	Y	■	■	■
M	■	E	■	T	■	N	■	D	■	O	■	■	■	■
S	P	R	Y	■	C	O	N	T	E	M	P	T	■	■
I	■	H	■	A	■	I	■	P	■	O	■	■	■	■
D	E	T	A	I	L	■	T	H	A	T	T	E	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
12. In each triangle, divide the product of the upper and left hand numbers by the right hand number to give the central number.

QUOTE UNCODE
Touch your customer, and you're halfway there.

SUDOKU

3	7	8	1	4	9	6	5	2
6	4	5	2	8	3	7	9	1
2	1	9	6	5	7	3	8	4
4	9	3	7	1	8	2	6	5
8	2	7	5	3	6	4	1	9
1	5	6	4	9	2	8	7	3
9	8	1	3	7	4	5	2	6
5	6	4	8	2	1	9	3	7
7	3	2	9	6	5	1	4	8

ALPHA TRIANGLE
N, NA, LAN, Uina, Lunar, Langur, Angular.

GO FIGURE
2 + 4 + 2 + 6 = 14
2 + 4 + 7 + 8 = 21
Medium
Hard
5 + 9 x 3 / 2 = 21
Easy

LOOP

KAKURO

■	■	■	8	5	■	■	2	3	5	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	9	7	24	8	7	9	16	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	12	1	9	6	12	3	2	1	■	■	■	■	■
■	22	10	8	5	9	19	16	3	6	7	■	■	■	■
3	1	2	19	6	5	1	4	17	8	9	■	■	■	■
20	5	8	7	19	7	3	9	4	14	16	■	■	■	■
16	9	7	26	9	1	8	4	16	7	9	■	■	■	■
24	9	8	7	16	29	7	8	1	■	■	■	■	■	■
25	3	1	2	5	1	4	10	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	9	10	■	■	8	28	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

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Disturbing comments
Singer-songwriter and actor Olivia Rodrigo has spoken out against online criticism surrounding her recent babydoll dress outfits, calling the backlash "really disturbing"

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Soundtrack sold

The team of Devi Mahatme are very happy that the movie's audio rights have been bought by Hombale Music. The movie has three songs. "I am very happy with the sale of the movie's audio rights. Hombale Music is one of the prestigious audio companies in Sandalwood. The filming of the movie was also completed two days before the schedule. The filming of the movie was held in and around Kundapura," said director Nagaraj Somayaji.

Maryade Prashne was the director's debut movie. "Devi Mahatme is a social comedy and the audience. The title should not lead audiences into thinking that it is a devotional movie. We are busy with post-production works and dubbing is expected to be completed in eight days. We are planning to release the teaser next month," the director said.

Jeevita Vashishta, an accomplished professional with a Masters in Electronics, plays Goddess Parvathi in the movie.

Rogue turns good

K Raj Sharan, who handled the megaphone for two Yemme Thimma and Modal Male - is all set to come out with his third movie - Maddane. The movie is supported by Latha Murthy under LM Films banner, who also plays a character role. Arya will play the protagonist. The movie's trailer was unveiled at an event held at Renukamba Preview Theater.

Raj Sharan said the meaning of the title is an angry or a rogue elephant. "It is about how the hero, who behaves like a rogue elephant, rectifies his mistakes and behaves like a righteous and law-abiding citizen. The filming of the movie was completed in 30 days in and around Bengaluru. Mandya, Mysuru, Chitradurga, and North Karnataka for 30 days," the director said.

The director said the protagonist joins an anti-terrorism squad in Mumbai without the knowledge of his family members. "The hero becomes a goon to trace the source of drugs," the director said.

Arya, who plays the protagonist, said he is basically a teacher. "My passion towards movies made me want to act," Arya said.

Safe space for the birds

Amidst a heatwave in several parts of the country, actress and an ardent animal lover Jacqueline Fernandez shared a glimpse of birds finding comfort on her balcony. She said it makes her "sooo happy every morning" to see them get some relief from the hot weather.

Jacqueline shared a glimpse of her balcony on her Instagram stories section. The picture featured a bird drinking water, which is kept on her balcony.

She wrote as the caption: "This makes me sooo happy every morning that they get some relief from the heat on my balcony and it's their safe place."

Jacqueline then urged everyone to keep fresh water out for animals and birds.

"Please keep out fresh water for animals and birds as it's a heat wave at the moment," she mentioned.

Talking about Jacqueline, the actress was in Cannes earlier this month. She shared a string of pictures of herself posing at the iconic Art Deco hotel Martinez and hugging Hollywood star Eva Longoria at the Global Gift Foundation event at the sidelines of the Cannes Film Festival.

—IANS

'THE INTERNET IS LOUD, BUT IS NOT ALWAYS WISE'

Malaika Arora on dealing with online trolling

Malaika Arora opened up about navigating online trolling and finding peace away from the noise of public opinion. In a recent interview, the fitness enthusiast and entrepreneur reveals how age and self-awareness have helped her tune out the internet's toxicity and stay grounded.

Speaking to Hindustan Times, Malaika got honest about how she manages the relentless scrutiny that comes with being in the public eye. She said, "I protect it (her inner joy) by remembering that the internet is loud, but it is not always wise. There's a difference. Over the years, I've realised that if you keep handing your peace over to public opinion, you'll never feel settled within yourself."

The actress, who recently launched her lifestyle accessories brand, elaborated on the practical steps she has taken to protect her mental well-being. The actress added, "I've learned to create boundaries. I don't consume everything that's said about me. I don't internalise every opinion. I lean on real life, my work, my loved ones, my routines, the things that actually nourish me."

Malaika was candid in admitting that developing this resilience has been a gradual process. She said, "And honestly, with age comes perspective. You stop reacting to every passing noise. You understand that criticism often says more about the person throwing it than the person receiving it. My joy today comes from being anchored in who I am." —ETimes

The many shades of care

This is Karen Kshiti Suvarna's maiden film as a director. Before this, her short film Hide and Seek had earned her international awards. Suvarna has chosen Alzheimer's, a sensitive subject for her directorial that premiered at the Cannes Film Festival recently.

She proves that one does not need a big star cast or a big budget to make a feature movie. The locations are simple and showcase two homes - one is where the protagonist works as a caregiver and the other one where she lives with her family.

The movie reflects on the woes of people suffering with Alzheimer's and those taking care of them and their siblings. The movie may not have heroics and romantic songs, but it is emotional and explores human relationships and characteristics such as care, greed, and ambition. The movie also delves into domestic violence.

The movie begins with an introductory speech by Prakash Belawadi appreciating the director. The next scene is a soulful video running on TV which describes - What is bonding. Never ending vibration. At this juncture, Kamala (Priyanka Upendra), a caregiver, enters the house and looks for Raj (Pravin Singh Sisodia), who has Alzheimer's. Kamala informs Dr Deepak about Raj missing from home. Dr Deepak succeeds in locating Raj at an ice-cream parlour.

Meanwhile, Raj's son Kiran, who is living abroad, advises his father to take medicines on time and not to venture outside. At this juncture, the director introduces the pathetic condition of Kamala, who has to suffer not only from Raj but also her parasite husband and nagging mother-in-law. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Kamala.

Priyanka Upendra has acted well. She looks good not only as a caregiver but also as a caring mother. Pravin Singh Sisodia walks away with all honours for his sterling performance. The scene where a male caregiver slaps him on his face makes audiences empathise with him. That scene conveys the much-needed message to society on the importance of being kind.

The movie is worth a watch for family audiences.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

September 21

3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Karen Kshiti Suvarna
- **ACTORS** Pravin Singh Sisodia, Priyanka Upendra, Zarina Wahab, Amit Behl, and Ricky Rudra
- **Duration** 124 minutes
- **Certification** U/A